



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Urban Transportation Commission

Recommendation Number 20170808-04B: Pilot Program for E-Bike Pedicabs

WHEREAS, improved mobility options and reduced auto dependence are public priorities recognized by the 2016 Mobility Talks report and bond election;

WHEREAS, pedicabs provide a mobility option that can help Austin achieve the goals of the New Mobility Resolution and the Vision Zero Action Plan, policies adopted by City Council to align the city's transportation system with the city's goals for greenhouse gas reduction, increased mobility for people without access to a car, reduced risks associated with driving, and reduced total vehicles miles traveled per capita;

WHEREAS, an increase of the percentage of short-distance trips made by bicycle is an important part of the city's strategic planning efforts to manage congestion, and make Austin a more livable, walkable, safe, and sustainable city;

WHEREAS, pedicabs are bikes that provide short-distance trips to people of all ages and abilities, including people who cannot ride a bike on their own;

WHEREAS, pedicabs with e-bike motors have the potential to increase the number of trips made by bike and to have greater access to streets with hills and difficult biking conditions;

WHEREAS, pedicabs with e-bike motors will make pedicab jobs more equitable for drivers of all ages and abilities;

WHEREAS, pedicabs and cargo trikes with e-bike motors are already in use in Austin for private and nonprofit business purposes;

WHEREAS, a pilot program for pedicabs with e-bike motors will inform and provide insight and data for the general rewrite of Section 13-2 when it returns to the UTC and Council in 2018;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Urban Transportation Commission recommends:

- 1) The creation of a one-year pilot program by ATD staff to study the use of e-bike motors by pedicabs and to establish a permanent regulatory framework in Section 13-2 for safe and beneficial operation of e-bike pedicabs within the city's transportation system.

2) The pilot program is ready to begin on September 1, 2017.

Date of Approval:

Record of the vote:

Attest:

DRAFT